

Chinese Say, 'Charge It' 4/15/85

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PEKING — China has taken another step along the road to capitalism. It has issued its first credit cards, and hundreds of Chinese are using them in shops and restaurants, bank officials said.

The nation's first plastic money was issued last month by the state-run Bank of China in the Zhuhai free-enterprise zone in southern Guangdong province, bank officials said.

About 400 customers are now using the credit cards in about 20 stores and restaurants in Zhuhai, the only place the cards are valid, said the officials.

The response to the credit cards has been enthusiastic, they said, adding the idea to launch the cards came from nearby Hong Kong, the world's third-largest financial center.

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